

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Kelli Hodge Kennedy et al.

Serial No.: 09/782,765

Filed: February 13, 2001

Docket No.: 10005680-1

Title: DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH CONSOLIDATED DOCUMENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 12, 2004, in which claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 were rejected. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Although paragraph 2 of the Detailed Action lists the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 as a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), Applicant assumes that the rejection is actually a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) considering the quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in paragraph 1 of the Detailed Action and the combination of references in the rejection.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griggs U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0029384 in view of Sako et al. U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0128936. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 9 each include a method of distributing a document of a user, with the document including at least one of textural and graphical information, and the method including registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers with a document distribution system controller, wherein the document distribution services include at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services. In addition, independent claim 10 includes a system for distributing a document of a user, with the document including at least one of textural and graphical information, and the system including a memory device configured to have document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers stored therein, wherein the document distribution services include at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services.

Independent claims 19 and 26 each include a method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, with the method including registering the document distribution services of the document distribution

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providers with a document distribution system controller, wherein the document distribution services include at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services, and presenting the document distribution services to a user having a document, wherein the document includes at least one of textural and graphical information. In addition, independent claim 27 includes a system for managing document distribution services, with the system including a document distribution system controller configured to have the document distribution services registered therewith, wherein the document distribution services include at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services, such that the document distribution system controller is adapted to present the document distribution services to a user having a document, wherein the document includes at least one of textural and graphical information.

The Examiner contends that the Griggs Patent Application teaches a method of distributing a document of a user including receiving a distribution request of the document from the user, compiling a list of distribution options for the document based on the document distribution services of the document distribution providers, and presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the user. The Examiner, however, recognizes that the Griggs Patent Application fails to teach registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers. As such, the Examiner contends that the Sako et al. Patent Application teaches registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers. Thus, the Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Griggs Patent Application in view of the Sako et al. Patent Application and include registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers.

Applicant submits that modifying the Griggs Patent Application in view of the Sako et al. Patent Application would not result in the present invention. For example, the Griggs Patent Application discloses a system for distributing content data, preferably digital video data, to user locations, wherein a system server stores user accounts and generates customized program schedules for the user accounts based on user criteria such that authorized users access their accounts to modify user criteria and to select program transmissions (Abstract). As such, users of the system of the Griggs Patent Application are

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seeking television programming. Users of the system of the Griggs Patent Application, however, do not have a document in need of distribution. In addition, content providers for the system of the Griggs Patent Application are providing digital video data. Content providers for the system of the Griggs Patent Application, however, are not providing document distribution services.

Accordingly, incorporating the teaching of the Sako et al. Patent Application in the Griggs Patent Application, in the manner suggested by the Examiner, would not overcome the shortcomings of the Griggs Patent Application and, therefore, would not result in the present invention. Thus, Applicant submits that the combination of the Griggs Patent Application and the Sako et al. Patent Application does not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 9, and 10 nor independent claims 19, 26, and 27.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27 are each patentably distinct from the Griggs and Sako et al. publications and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 3-7 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 11-17 further define patentably distinct claim 10, dependent claims 21 and 23-25 further define patentably distinct claim 19, and dependent claims 29 and 30 further define patentably distinct claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-7, 11-17, 21, 23-25, 29, and 30 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, and 30 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to either James R. McDaniel at Telephone No. (208) 396-4095, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 1st day of December, 2004.

By 
Name: Scott A. Lund